

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/834,499

Examiner

Scott Au

Applicant(s)

GOETZ, JOSEPH R.

Art Unit

2635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/11/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9, 13, 14, 18 and 19.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 041201
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jordan Meschkow on March 28, 2006.

The claims 1-20 have been amended as follows:

Claim 1. (Amended) An automatic vehicle theft prevention system for selectively enabling an ignition system of a vehicle, said ignition system being operable using an ignition key, and said system comprising: an interrogator circuit including a signal generator for generating an excitation signal and an antenna coupled to said signal generator for radiating said excitation signal and receiving a return signal; a transponder circuit separate from said ignition key for detecting said excitation signal and radiating said return signal, said transponder circuit modulating said excitation signal to produce said return signal containing an identification code for said transponder circuit; a controller in communication with said antenna for detecting said identification code in said return signal; [and]

a relay actuated to an enable mode by said controller when said controller detects said identification code, said relay being actuated to enable said ignition system; wherein said ignition system includes an ignition switch activated by said ignition key, and said system further includes a latching relay actuated in response to a momentary actuation of said relay when said controller detects said identification code, said latching relay being adapted to remain latched until said ignition switch is deactivated; further comprising an override switch in communication with an input of said latching relay wherein activation of said override switch causes said latching relay to be latched to continuously enable said ignition system; and wherein activation of said override switch causes said latching relay to remain latched to continuously enable said ignition system only following actuation of said latching relay by said relay.

Claim 2. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said transponder circuit is a mobile radio frequency identification (RFID) data carrier including a memory element for storing said identification code.

Claim 3. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said excitation signal provides power to said transponder circuit.

Claim 4. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said controller comprises: an input for receiving a predetermined authorized identification code; and a memory element in communication with said input for storing said predetermined authorized identification code, said controller actuating said relay to said enable mode in response to a match between said detected identification code and said predetermined authorized.

Claim 5. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 4 wherein said input is a data port configured for interconnection with an external programming device, said external programming device providing said predetermined authorized access code.

Claim 6. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 4 wherein said input is said antenna configured for radio frequency communication with an external programming device, said external programming device providing said predetermined authorized access code.

Claim 7. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 4 wherein: said identification code is a first identification code; said predetermined authorized identification code is a first predetermined authorized identification code; said input of said controller is configured to receive a second predetermined authorized identification code; said memory element is configured to store said second

predetermined authorized identification code; and said system further comprises a second RFID data carrier separate from said ignition key for detecting said excitation signal and radiating said return signal, said second RFID data carrier including a memory element for storing a second identification code for said second RFID data carrier, and said second RFID data carrier modulating said excitation signal to produce said return signal containing said second identification code, wherein when said controller detects a match between said detected second identification code and said second predetermined authorized identification code, said relay is actuated to said enable mode to enable said ignition system.

Claim 8. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said relay is actuated to a disable mode whenever said controller fails to detect said identification code.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said ignition system includes an ignition switch and a starter mechanism, and said system further comprises: an input configured to be coupled to an output of said ignition switch, and said input being in communication with an input of said relay; and an output in communication with an enable mode output of said relay and configured to be coupled to an input of said starter mechanism.

Claim 10. (Cancelled).

Claim 11. (Cancelled).

Claim 12. (Cancelled).

Claim 13. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim [11] 1 further comprising an indicator in communication with an output of said override switch and energized when said override switch is activated.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said antenna is configured for placement inside a passenger compartment of said vehicle.

Claim 15. (Cancelled).

Claim 16. (Cancelled).

Claim 17. (Cancelled).

Claim 18. (Amended) An automatic vehicle theft prevention system for selectively enabling an ignition system of a vehicle, said ignition system being operable using an ignition key, and said system comprising:
an interrogator circuit including a signal generator for generating an excitation signal and an antenna coupled to said signal generator for radiating said excitation signal and receiving a return signal;

a mobile radio frequency identification (RFID) data carrier separate from said ignition key for detecting said excitation signal and radiating said return signal, said mobile RFID data carrier including a memory element for storing an identification code for said mobile RFID data carrier, said mobile RFID data carrier modulating said excitation signal to produce said return signal containing said identification code;

a controller in communication with said antenna for detecting said identification code in said return signal; (and)

a relay actuated by said controller to one of an enable mode and a disable mode, said relay being actuated to said enable mode to enable said ignition system in response to detection of said identification code, and said relay being actuated to said disable mode to disable said ignition system whenever said controller fails to detect said identification code; **and a latching relay actuated in response to a momentary**

actuation of said relay when said controller detects said identification code, said

latching relay being adapted to remain latched until said ignition switch is

deactivated; an override switch in communication with an input of said latching

relay wherein activation of said override switch causes said latching relay to

remain latched to continuously enable said ignition system only following

actuation of said latching relay by said relay; and an indicator in communication

an output of said override switch and energized when said override switch is

activated.

Claim 19. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 18 wherein said antenna is configured for placement inside a passenger compartment of said vehicle.

Claim 20. (Cancelled).

Allowable Subject Matter

This communication is in response to the decision of Board of Patent Appeal made on January 11, 2006 in the application of Goetz for an "Automatic vehicle theft prevention system" filed April 12, 2001.

Claims 1-9 and 13-14 and 18-19 are allowed as evident by Examiner's amendment.

Claims 10-12, 15-17 and 20 are cancelled.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

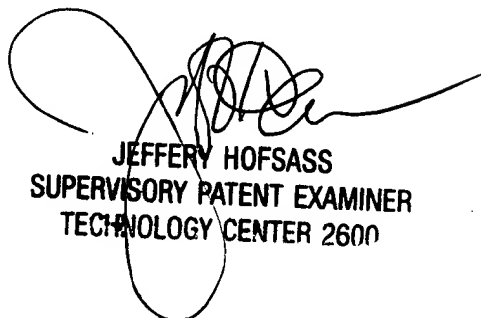
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Au whose telephone number is (571) 272-3063. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30AM – 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Hofsass can be reached at (571) 272-2981. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (571)-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)-305-3900.

Scott Au

SA
3/28/06


JEFFERY HOFSSASS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600